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und Farne" (1877), "Vergleichende Morphologie und Biologie der Pilze, Mycetozen, und Bakterien" (1882), and "Vorlesungen über Bakterien" (1885). Several of these works have been translated into English or other languages, and are well known to American botanists. In addition thereto, DeBary has published a very large number of special monographs; and the many valuable contributions from his pen contained in the "Botanische Zeitung," which has been so ably edited by him since the year 1866, also reflect the accurate and painstaking investigations of this talented and renowned scientist.

As a teacher Professor DeBary was characterized by great clearness of expression, and the facility which he possessed for demonstrating the subjects of his lectures by crayon sketches or impromptu drawings. His reputation as an investigator had long extended far beyond the limits of his native land, and for many years students and teachers of botany from distant countries, including many Americans, were attracted to his laboratory. In his relations with students, or in conducting examinations, Professor DeBary was always just and considerate, and in social intercourse he was most amiable; but on no occasion was his genial temperament more manifest than on the frequent botanical excursions which he was accustomed to make with his pupils during the spring and summer to the adjacent fields and forests, the more extended rambles in the Vosges and Black Forest, or the occasional visit to some alpine peak of Switzerland.

In his death, preceding by a few days that of his eminent friend Dr. Gray, the scientific world has lost one of its noblest and most distinguished representatives, and on this side of the ocean, as well as in other lands, his memory will long be cherished and his name revered.

F. B. POWER.

Testimonial to Dr. Asa Gray.—At the regular meeting of the Hamilton Literary and Scientific Association held in their rooms, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, February 9, 1888, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

WHEREAS, This association has heard with deepest sorrow of the death of Dr. Asa Gray;

Resolved, That, as a mark of respect to the memory of the deceased, there be transmitted to his family a record of our profound regret at such a calamity to the botanical world. That in his life he furnished a shining example of devotion to science and thoroughness of investigation which will always command our admiration and respect, and that, though of another nationality, we cherish and revere his memory, inseparably interwoven not only with American botany, but with the development of botanical science itself.

T. J. W. B.

A satisfactory ruling at last.—The following letter explains itself, and its contents will prove highly satisfactory to all naturalists who wish to transmit specimens by mail:

POST-OFFICE DEPARTMENT,
OFFICE OF THIRD ASSISTANT POSTMASTER-GENERAL, }
WASHINGTON, D. C., February 11, 1888.

Editors Botanical Gazette:

SIRS—Your letter of the 4th inst., addressed to the postmaster-general, has been referred to this office.

Under the recent act of congress in relation to permissible printing and writing upon second, third and fourth-class matter, there may be placed upon specimens of dried plants, or on any other natural history specimens, to be transmitted by mail, without subjecting them to other than the fourth class rate of postage, labels bearing the written names of the specimens, locality and date of collection. and the collector's name—where these inscriptions are wholly for purpose of identification or description.

The labels you submit, and which are herewith returned, are therefore permissible. [These labels are of the usual form, giving the above data.—EDS.]

As this specific ruling under the act referred to has never been promulgated, it is not unlikely that specimens sent by mail with such written descriptions will be subjected by postmasters occasionally to delay, and it may be to improper exactions of postage. To prevent this as much as possible, publicity will be at once given to the ruling.

Yours, very respectfully, H. R. HARRIS,
Third Assistant Postmaster General.

Further notes on imbedding.—In the July number of the BOTANICAL GAZETTE for 1887, p. 172, the editors noticed a method for imbedding delicate plant tissues which I described in the *Bd. Centralblatt*. Since the publication I have had opportunity of gaining more experience in the use of this method, leading me to modify it slightly. In the first place, I now use absolute alcohol, where I formerly only used the strong methylated spirit of commerce. Further, I now leave specimens to be imbedded for twenty-four hours in pure oil of cloves (after they have sunk), twenty-four hours in pure turpentine, twenty-four hours in turpentine saturated with paraffine, and twenty-four hours in melted paraffine. Although much more time is thus required, the results are more reliable, and I can now imbed, by my method, without previous staining in borax-carminé, and thus considerable time and trouble is saved.

Perhaps I may be allowed to add that sections fixed to the slide with collodion stain very well with Bismarck brown, and can then easily be photographed. Bismarck brown¹ stains all cell walls. If Kleinenberg's hæmatoxylin is used in addition, the cellulose walls turn blue, while all other walls retain their yellow color, and thus a nice double stain is effected. If sections of young tissues are treated in this way, the process of lignification in vessels can be easily traced; and if the hæmatoxylin is allowed to act a sufficient time on the sections, the structure of the protoplasm will be brought out.—SELMAR SCHÖNLAND, *Botanic Garden, Oxford.*

¹ I prepare the solution of Bismarck brown in the following way: Saturate 1 part of absolute alcohol with Bismarck brown, and add 2 parts of distilled water.—A solution in 70 p. c. alcohol, as often used by zoologists, does not stain lignified cell walls very readily, and the solution in water which has been heretofore used by botanists is said not to keep very well.